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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,876	11/27/2002	Gregory Scot Corman	RD27912	5277

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GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
GLOBAL RESEARCH
PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59
SCHENECTADY, NY 12301-0008

EXAMINER

WHITE, DWAYNE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3745

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/065,876

Applicant(s)

CORMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Dwayne J White

Art Unit

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2002.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 20 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,8,9,11 and 19 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) 2-7,10 and 12-18 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 7, lines 16-17, item number 200 is stated as being in "Figure 1". It is believed that this is a typographical error and should have stated "Figure 2".

On page 8, lines 10 and 11, it is stated "Figures 3A, 3B and 3C," however as the drawing are labeled there is only one figure three. The Examiner suggests either changing the wording to reflect a single Figure 3 or changing Figure 3's labeling to conform to US practice by labeling each ring as a figure.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities:

On line 5, "into an surface" should be --into a surface--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Halila (5,291,732). Halila discloses a structure for attaching together a first component 36 and a second component 44 comprising a plurality of protuberances 68 formed on a surface of a first component and a plurality of corresponding cavities 74 formed into a surface of the second component opposite the surface of the first component. Each of the protuberances slidably engages one of the cavities such that the second component is capable of floating in independent movement relative to the first component.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hartel (4,307,993). Hartel discloses a structure for attaching together or sealing a space between a first component 3 and a second component 2 comprising a plurality of support members 4 fixedly disposed between the first component and the second component defining a cavity 5 and accepting a first attachment structure that slidably engages a mating second attachment structure 6 provided on the second component such that the second component is capable of floating in an independent movement relative to the first component.

CONCLUSION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10 and 20 allowed over the prior art in view of the following:

The plurality of support members disposed between the first component and the second component comprise a first ring and at least two second rings selected from the group of split rings, laminar rings and multiple split rings. While it is disclosed in the prior art to use a first set

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of split rings (See Hartel 4,307,993) none of the references disclose having a second set of rings as claimed by Applicant.

Claims 2-7 and 12-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tate (4,613,280) discloses a structure wherein the sealing rings are disposed such that they can move freely to open or close cooling holes between two components.


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dwayne J White whose telephone number is (703) 306-3464. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am to 5 pm T-F and alternate Mondays.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on (703) 308-1044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Dwayne White
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3745

DJW


EDWARD K. LOOK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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3/5/04